

WITNESSES TESTIFY TO THE COOK LAD'S GOOD CONDUCT

**Five Teachers and Several Neighbors
Take Stand Yesterday in Behalf of
Police Commissioner's Son.**

**Finnish People Merely Want Justice Done and Insist That Stories to
Effect That Violence Is Contemplated Are Entirely False--
District Attorney States All Parties Will Be Treated
Fair and Investigation Will Be Thorough.**

James Winters, Joseph Burns and I. untrue. We are merely demanding justice. W. Penttaja, representing themselves to be a committee acting for the Finnish residents of the city, called at the office of The Astorian last evening to deny some rumors which had been circulated during the day, and to explain the attitude of the Finnish people in the investigation as to the cause of the death of Miss Hilda Willen, who was accidentally killed by 14-year-old Willie Cook.

"We are informed," said Mr. Winters, "that the police have been requested to send special officers to the Cook residence for the purpose of preventing any attempt that might be made by the Finnish residents of the city to lynch the Cook boy. We heard nothing of this in West Astoria, but the rumor seemed to be in general circulation up town that some such action was contemplated."

"We desire to say that there is no disposition on the part of the Finnish people to take the law in their own hands, and we brand the rumor as false. The Finnish people are merely anxious that the law shall take its course. We demand a thorough investigation into the death of Miss Willen, and if the shooting was accidental we will hope for the dismissal of the boy from custody. If, on the other hand, it is shown there was criminal intent, we expect that he will be punished. But at no time have any Finnish residents contemplated violence. The mass meeting held in West Astoria was called for the purpose of providing means to defray the expense of the funeral of Miss Willen, and to take such steps as were necessary for a proper investigation of the circumstances surrounding her death. Any other statement of the case is

were Finns. The Cook lad sat between his father, Police Commissioner Cook, and his uncle, A. A. Cook, of Portland. John H. Smith appeared for the boy, Messrs. Allen and Winton appearing for the state.

Among the witnesses called was Dr. R. D. Smith, post surgeon at Fort Stevens, who had been engaged by the Finns to examine the body of the unfortunate young woman. He said he found no other bruise than the wound made by the bullet, which had passed through the heart of the girl. At the request of the Finns had made an examination for the purpose of determining whether or not the girl had been, criminally assaulted, but found all of the organs in normal condition. This line of testimony proved a decided surprise. Victor Bergman, who conducts a Finnish newspaper, I. W. Penttaja and Andrew Kallunki, who had acted as a Finnish committee to arrange for the autopsy, were called and testified that the autopsy was satisfactory in every respect to them. A boy named Petef Brach was also placed on the stand, but his testimony was unimportant.

Sheriff Linville was called and exhibited a block of wood into which Willie Cook had fired one shot from the revolver with which the servant was killed. This evidence was presented to verify the statement of the lad that he had fired one shot so as to have a blank cartridge on which he might harmlessly snap the hammer of the weapon.

Boy is Gentle and Kind. The defense called a large number of persons to show the character of the lad, among them five school teachers. The teachers placed on the stand were Miss Mae Utzinger, Miss Ruth Garner, Mrs. Josie McCormick, Miss Anna Olsen and Professor McCormack, of Shively school. All of them testified that Willie was a boy of splendid habits, goodly disposition and charitable traits. They said he had never been in trouble, and each of the educators testified that he was considered one of the very brightest and best-behaved boys in the schools. Asked whether or not Willie had ever been overbearing toward children who could not speak English, they replied in the negative, adding that he was of even temperament and considerate in his attitude toward other pupils. The statements of all of the five teachers were highly flattering.

Albert Dunbar, a neighbor of Police Commissioner Cook, said Willie was the favorite boy on the hill, and that he was held in high esteem by all the children of the neighborhood. W. H. Walker, Mrs. Walker, Miss Nora O'Farrell, who had been employed at the Cook residence; City Surveyor Tee, Frank Carnahan and William F. Ross all made similar statements.

Attorney Winton asked each of the witnesses particularly as to the mental attainments of the lad, and was assured by all that he was unusually bright. The attorney seemed anxious to make it clear that the boy was bright enough to know the risk he was taking when he pointed the revolver at Miss Willen.

Mr. Allen's Statement. During a lull in the proceedings yesterday afternoon District Attorney Allen made rather a surprising statement to Coroner Pohl and the jury.

"There has been more or less comment as to the attitude of the authorities since the investigation of this case was commenced," said Mr. Allen, "and rumors have been circulated that the officials were not inclined to properly conduct the investigation. It has been said, so I am told, that the officials were inclined to be negligent. Now, I want to say that statement is untrue, not only as to myself, but as well as to the other officials concerned. We mean to make the fullest possible investigation, and the reports which have been circulated are most unjust. Fairness to the friends of the dead girl and to the friends of Mr. Cook and his soon demands a full investigation, and I mean to get at all the facts."

Mr. Allen's statement seemed to have a reassuring effect upon the large number of Finns present.

The district attorney then went on to explain the legal status of the matter. He said the boy, who was under the age of 16, could neither be hanged nor placed in the penitentiary, even if it were shown he had been guilty of involuntary manslaughter, of which a man was convicted in this state for killing his father under much the same circumstances that the Willen girl met her death. "The Oregon supreme court has held," said Mr. Allen, "that, if a man pointed a gun at an-

other person, whether or not he knew it was loaded, and killed the person, he would be guilty of involuntary manslaughter and liable to a penitentiary sentence. In the case of a boy of 14 years, the courts could send him to the reform school, but could not confine him in the penitentiary."

Mr. Allen should be at Oregon City on Monday, to attend the session of the circuit court there, but the local case will probably detain him.

KICKS ABOUT JAIL.

Prisoner Claims That Jailor Mistreated Him.

Seattle, Wash., March 18.—George Hubbell, a prisoner in the city jail, was removed to the county hospital yesterday for treatment of injuries he says he received while in the city jail. Hubbell says he was cruelly beaten by one of the jailers and by members of the chain gang, who had been ordered by the jailer to inflict punishment upon the defenseless man.

Hubbell's eyes are both swollen shut. There is a deep gash in the back of his head and his body in several places is bruised apparently from kicks he received.

In this condition Hubbell was removed from the city jail to the county jail. The order that the county jailer got said that Hubbell was insane and that he should be sent to an asylum. The sheriff investigated the case and refused to call an insanity commission, he declaring that Hubbell was not insane nor did he display the least signs of insanity. Instead, Sheriff Cuddehe ordered that the injured man be taken to the county hospital.

Hubbell says he arrived in town just a week ago. A police officer saw him on the street and he was arrested as a vagrant. Police Judge George sent him to jail for five days. He was ill at the time, he says, and had medicine that was given to him by the city physician. When he was searched at police headquarters the medicine was taken away from him. After he was put in the cell, he says he asked the jailer to give him his medicine back. Instead, Hubbell says, the jailer, whose name he did not know, jumped upon him and knocked him down. He says he was then placed in a strait-jacket and when he was tied he says the jailer struck him twice in the face, because he protested that he was not insane and should not be placed in a straitjacket. Later, he says, when he cried out with pain, the jailer instructed two members of the chain gang to "shut him up or kill him." He was beaten several times by them, he says, until he was unconscious. Then he was removed to the county jail.

The case will be thoroughly investigated by Chief Sullivan. All officers deny any knowledge of any beating. They say that the man hurt himself by throwing himself against the jail door while he was insane. The sheriff declares the man is not crazy, and on the face of it, it looks as though a wrong had been committed by some officer who should be punished.

IT SAVED HIS LEG.

P. A. Danforth, of La Grange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Piles, it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Sold by Chas. Rogers, druggist.

ONE PAGE COVERED.

Congress Devotes Entire Day to Post-office Appropriation.

Washington, March 18.—The house was in session little more than three hours today, an early adjournment being taken to permit members to take a trip to the site proposed, or the Jamestown exposition. Although the postoffice appropriation bill was under discussion the entire time, but one page was completed, making 11 pages disposed of. Several amendments were adopted, the principal one being the inserting of a new paragraph in the bill providing for an appropriation of \$500,000 for "unusual business" at third and fourth class postoffices. The postmaster-general is required to make public regulations under which allotments are to be made before using any part of this amount, and a similar requirement was imposed in the case of an expenditure of \$1,000,000 for separating mails at third and fourth class postoffices.

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